

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT - MARCH QUARTER, 1939

A comparison of employment in retail stores in February, 1939 (the latest month for which figures are available for all States) with February, 1938, shows the following estimated percentage changes:- New South Wales, +2.3; Victoria, +1.4; Queensland, +1.8; South Australia, nil; Western Australia, -2.6; Tasmania, +5.6; Australia, +1.5 (or, taking account of the growth of employee population, +0.4).

MONTHLY INDEX OF FACTORY EMPLOYMENT - EXCLUDING WORKING PROPRIETORS (a)

(Base: Average for year 1928-29 = 100)

Period	New South Wales			Victoria			Queensland			South Australia			Western Australia			Tasmania			Australia					
																			Unadjusted Index			Index divided by Index of Employee Population		
Number of Employees, 1928-29	M.129,539; F. 44,581; T.174,120			M. 98,068; F. 51,198; T.149,266			M. 35,581; F. 7,855; T. 43,436			M. 29,014; F. 6,362; T. 35,376			M. 16,039; F. 3,760; T. 19,799			M. 7,703; F. 2,281; T. 9,984			M.315,944; F.116,037; T.431,981				
Index for 1926-27	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
1927-28	100	98	99	102	99	101	101	89	99	113	109	112	95	91	94	105	88	101	101	98	100	106	102	105
1928-29	99	97	98	100	98	100	101	92	99	106	106	106	98	97	98	107	104	106	100	98	100	102	100	102
1929-30	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1930-31	90	91	90	96	98	97	95	94	94	87	89	87	94	98	94	105	99	104	92	95	93	91	93	92
1931-32	68	75	70	78	83	80	83	85	84	63	71	64	68	76	69	85	83	84	73	79	75	71	76	72
1932-33	66	79	69	77	90	81	78	84	79	61	76	64	61	75	63	84	87	85	70	84	74	68	80	71
1933-34	73	86	76	87	101	92	80	92	82	68	84	71	68	81	70	86	90	87	78	93	82	74	87	77
1934-35	82	94	85	96	107	100	86	99	88	77	89	80	75	85	77	93	89	92	86	99	90	81	92	84
1935-36	93	107	97	106	113	108	92	105	94	89	97	91	83	92	85	101	97	100	96	108	100	89	99	92
1936-37	104	116	107	117	119	117	97	110	99	104	110	105	99	106	100	112	103	110	107	116	109	98	105	100
1937-38 (b)	112	125	115	123	121	123	103	116	106	110	113	111	107	113	108	122	103	118	114	121	116	104	108	105
1937 - February	121	134	124	131	126	130	110	121	112	116	118	116	109	117	110	129	106	123	122	128	124	110	113	111
March	114	126	117	125	125	125	96	115	99	114	118	115	109	113	110	132	112	128	115	124	118	105	110	106
April	115	130	119	127	126	127	99	118	102	115	119	116	110	112	110	133	117	129	117	126	119	106	112	108
May	114	129	118	129	126	128	101	114	104	119	120	120	109	111	109	130	106	125	118	125	120	107	111	108
June	115	128	119	127	122	125	105	116	107	120	117	119	108	111	109	127	105	122	118	123	119	107	109	108
	117	128	120	126	120	124	109	115	110	119	116	118	107	110	108	123	104	119	119	122	120	107	108	108

MONTHLY INDEX OF FACTORY EMPLOYMENT - EXCLUDING WORKING PROPRIETORS
(Continued)

Period	New South Wales			Victoria			Queensland			South Australia			Western Australia			Tasmania			Australia					
																			Unadjusted Index			Index divided by Index of Employee Population		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
1937 - July (a)	117	128	120	126	121	124	111	121	113	115	111	115	106	113	108	120	101	115	118	122	119	107	108	107
August	118	131	121	126	123	125	116	127	118	115	113	114	108	113	109	119	100	115	120	125	121	108	111	109
September	119	133	122	128	126	127	116	125	117	114	114	114	110	116	111	121	93	114	120	127	122	109	112	110
October	120	134	124	131	127	130	114	130	117	113	117	113	110	118	112	125	98	119	122	129	124	110	114	111
November	122	135	125	132	128	131	117	124	118	114	118	114	109	118	111	126	98	120	123	129	125	111	114	112
December	122	137	126	133	127	131	110	123	112	117	116	117	110	120	112	131	102	124	123	129	125	111	114	112
1938 - January	121	128	123	130	119	126	98	112	100	116	117	116	109	119	111	133	115	129	121	122	121	109	107	108
February	122	135	125	134	130	133	104	121	107	120	120	120	109	123	112	134	115	130	123	130	125	111	115	112
March	123	138	127	136	133	135	107	120	110	119	125	120	110	119	112	136	119	132	125	133	127	112	117	113
April	122	137	126	135	130	134	107	121	109	119	125	120	110	115	111	135	110	129	124	131	126	111	115	112
May	123	137	127	134	127	132	110	117	111	115	122	116	109	115	110	133	112	128	124	129	125	111	114	112
June	124	136	127	132	125	130	112	118	113	110	114	111	106	113	107	131	112	126	123	128	124	110	112	111
July (b)	not avail- able		126	128	121	125	113	121	114	112	111	112	107	117	109	126	109	122	122	124	122	109	109	109
August			126	126	125	126	120	126	121	112	115	112	107	116	108	126	110	122	122	128	123	109	112	110
September			126	127	125	126	121	125	122	113	117	114	107	116	109	124	102	119	122	128	124	109	112	110
October			126	128	123	126	116	133	119	114	118	115	109	118	111	127	102	122	122	128	124	109	112	110
November			126	129	122	127	118	125	119	114	119	115	109	119	111	126	98	119	123	126	124	110	110	110
December			126	128	117	124	117	125	119	116	116	116	110	120	112	127	102	122	123	123	123	110	107	109
1939 - January			121	125	106	119	104	119	106	119	120	119	104	116	107	135	120	131	120	114	118	107	99	105
February			123	126	119	124	107	124	110	122	119	122	105	123	109	137	130	135	121	124	122	108	108	108
Number of Factories in Sample	1901			100			150			147			92			49			2439					
Percentage of employees in sample in 1936-37	86			21			47			62			33			57			54					

(a) The indexes for 1936-37 and those of New South Wales and Victoria for 1937-38 are based on the final factory returns. From July, 1937, the indexes for the remaining States have been computed on the basis of the 1936-37 final figures, whilst the Victorian and New South Wales indexes for the current year are based on the 1937-38 final figures.

(b) After June, 1938, male and female indexes for Australia are calculated on the assumption that the change in masculinity in the six States is equal to the change in the five States other than New South Wales for which sample masculinity figures are not available.

MALES EMPLOYED IN FACTORIES AS PERCENTAGE OF ALL PERSONS
EMPLOYED IN FACTORIES

Year	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	AUSTRALIA
1926-27	74.8	66.3	83.8	82.4	81.7	80.2	73.8
1927-28	74.8	66.2	83.2	82.0	81.2	77.6	73.6
1928-29	74.4	65.7	81.9	82.0	81.0	77.2	73.1
1929-30	74.1	65.1	81.9	81.7	80.3	78.2	72.7
1930-31	72.6	64.4	81.6	80.2	79.3	77.5	71.5
1931-32	70.7	62.1	80.8	78.6	77.6	76.6	69.5
1932-33	71.0	62.2	79.8	78.5	78.2	76.4	69.4
1933-34	71.5	63.2	79.7	79.8	78.9	77.9	70.2
1934-35	71.8	64.1	79.7	80.8	79.4	78.0	70.8
1935-36	72.2	65.3	80.0	81.2	80.1	78.6	71.5
1936-37	72.2	66.1	80.1	81.6	80.3	80.0	72.0
1937-38	72.4	66.6	80.4	81.8	79.9	80.3	72.2
1937 -							
February	72.4	65.7	79.0	81.5	80.4	80.0	71.7
March	72.0	65.9	79.2	81.6	80.7	79.3	71.7
April	72.0	66.2	80.1	81.9	80.8	80.5	72.0
May	72.3	66.6	80.3	82.3	80.5	80.3	72.3
June	72.7	66.8	81.2	82.4	80.6	80.0	72.7
July (a)	72.7	66.6	80.7	82.6	80.0	80.0	72.5
August	72.4	66.3	80.5	82.3	80.3	80.1	72.3
September	72.2	66.1	80.8	82.0	80.1	81.4	72.1
October	72.3	66.3	80.0	81.4	80.0	81.1	72.1
November	72.3	66.4	81.0	81.5	79.7	81.3	72.2
December	72.2	66.7	80.1	82.2	79.7	81.2	72.2
1938 -							
January	73.4	67.8	79.8	82.0	79.6	79.5	73.0
February	72.4	66.3	79.6	82.0	79.2	79.7	72.0
March	72.2	66.2	80.2	81.2	79.8	79.5	71.9
April	72.1	66.6	80.0	81.3	80.3	80.5	72.0
May	72.3	66.8	81.0	81.1	80.1	80.0	72.2
June	72.6	66.9	81.0	81.5	79.9	79.7	72.4
July	n.a.	67.0	80.8	82.2	79.6	79.6	(b) 72.5
August	n.a.	66.0	81.2	81.5	79.6	79.3	72.0
September	n.a.	66.1	81.5	81.5	79.8	80.5	72.1
October	n.a.	66.7	79.7	81.5	79.7	80.8	72.2
November	n.a.	66.9	81.1	81.3	79.7	81.3	72.5
December	n.a.	67.8	80.9	82.0	79.6	80.8	73.2
1939 -							
January	n.a.	69.2	79.7	81.9	79.3	79.2	73.8
February	n.a.	67.0	79.6	82.4	78.5	78.1	72.3

n.a. not available.

Note: This table has been revised to exclude working proprietors.

(a) From July, 1937 the percentages are based on estimates computed from returns from "sample" factories, with the exception of New South Wales and Victoria where final figures are available for 1937-38.

(b) From July, 1938 the percentage for Australia is calculated on the assumption that the change in masculinity in the six States is equal to the change in the five States, other than New South Wales, for which sample masculinity figures are not available.

MONTHLY INDEX OF EMPLOYMENT IN RETAIL STORES

(Base: July, 1933 = 100)

Month	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Australia	
							Unadjusted Index	Index divided by Index of Employee Population
Index for -								
1933-34	103	107	101	102	99	106	104	103
1934-35	111	118	106	108	105	108	112	110
1935-36	118	130	109	114	110	112	119	116
1936-37	124	137	111	115	115	119	125	120
1937-38	130	141	112	115	116	118	128	122
1937 -								
February	125	137	111	111	114	122	125	120
March	123	135	111	111	114	118	123	118
April	124	136	109	113	114	120	124	119
May	126	138	111	114	113	121	126	120
June	126	141	110	114	113	121	126	121
July	129	137	110	115	115	124	127	121
August	126	133	110	112	113	121	124	118
September	126	135	110	117	113	123	125	119
October	127	140	110	113	114	123	127	121
November	129	143	110	115	116	125	129	123
December	144	161	123	129	126	138	144	137
1938 -								
January	128	144	111	115	122	126	129	123
February	131	139	111	112	116	124	128	122
March	128	140	110	112	115	123	127	121
April	129	140	112	113	117	125	128	121
May	129	141	112	114	115	126	128	122
June	131	142	113	114	114	126	129	122
July	134	139	111	114	120	130	129	123
August	129	135	111	112	113	127	126	119
September	128	137	111	118	114	127	127	120
October	129	142	110	113	115	128	128	121
November	132	146	115	116	116	130	131	124
December	148	165	127	124	131	146	147	139
1939 -								
January	129	142	113	111	120	137	129	121
February	134	141	113	112	113	131	130	122
Number of establishments now furnishing returns	599	102	120	35	69	14	939	939

INDEXES OF EMPLOYMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES AND QUEENSLAND

Working from the basis of the results of the Census of 30th June, 1933, and from compilations made from returns of employers in remitting wages tax and returns collected from Government Departments, the Government Statistician of New South Wales has prepared an index of employment and unemployment covering all persons dependent on employment in New South Wales. The Director of the Bureau of Industry of Queensland publishes an index of employment and unemployment among men wage and salary earners. The data for this index are derived from information relating to Unemployment Insurance contributions and other sources. The results are given below -

NEW SOUTH WALES

Percentages of Employment and Unemployment - All available wage-earners (a) Including and (b) Excluding as employed the full-time equivalent of men engaged part-time on relief works

Period	Percentage of all who are dependent on and available for employment			
	(a) Including as employed the full-time equivalent of all part-time relief workers		(b) Including all part-time relief workers as unemployed	
	Employed	Unemployed	Employed	Unemployed
Census of 30th June, 1933	74.4	25.6	73.5	26.5
1934 - June ..	80.5	19.5	77.8	22.2
1935 - June ..	85.9	14.1	83.1	16.9
1936 - June ..	89.3	10.7	87.1	12.9
1937 - June ..	93.5	6.5	92.3	7.7
1938 - February ..	96.0	4.0	95.0	5.0
March ..	96.0	4.0	94.9	5.1
April ..	96.0	4.0	94.9	5.1
May ..	95.8	4.2	94.8	5.2
June ..	96.1	3.9	95.1	4.9
July ..	95.9	4.1	94.9	5.1
August ..	95.3	4.7	94.2	5.8
September ..	95.8	4.2	94.8	5.2
October ..	95.4	4.6	94.3	5.7
November ..	95.6	4.4	94.6	5.4
December ..	96.5	3.5	95.4	4.6
1939 - January ..	93.0	7.0	91.9	8.1
February ..	94.4	5.6	93.3	6.7

The indexes were revised in November, 1937. In estimating the increase in the number of persons dependent on employment allowance is now made for (a) increase in the proportion of females who are wage-earners, and (b) youths who were without occupation but were not recorded in the wage-earning group at the Census of 1933. Adjustment for seasonal variations in employment is not made except in respect of casual retail employees in December.

At the Census of 30th June, 1933, 15,142 persons dependent on employment returned themselves as unemployed by reason of illness, accident, etc. or "voluntarily". This number, representing 1.8 per cent. of all persons dependent on employment is excluded from the above indexes, which relate to percentages of available wage-earners, employed and unemployed.

The approximate number of persons in private employment was 478,000 in June, 1933; 653,000 in June, 1937; 689,000 in June, 1938; and 683,000 in February, 1939.

QUEENSLAND

Employment and Unemployment among Men Wage and Salary Earners

Period	(a) Including as employed the full-time equivalent of part-time relief workers		(b) Including "Inter-mittent Relief Workers" as unemployed	
	Employed	Unemployed	Employed	Unemployed
3 months ended -				
1933 - June ..	79.0	21.0	72.9	27.1
1934 - June ..	85.0	15.0	80.2	19.8
1935 - June ..	85.9	10.1	85.2	14.8
1936 - June ..	91.8	8.2	86.4	13.6
1937 - June ..	94.3	5.7	90.5	9.5
1938 - January ..	95.4	4.6	91.8	8.2
February ..	95.3	4.7	91.8	8.2
March ..	95.4	4.6	91.7	8.3
April ..	95.2	4.8	91.6	8.4
May ..	95.3	4.7	91.7	8.3
June ..	95.4	4.6	91.8	8.2
July ..	95.7	4.3	92.1	7.9
August ..	95.9	4.1	92.5	7.5
September ..	96.0	4.0	92.8	7.2
October ..	95.5	4.5	93.2	6.8
November ..	95.2	4.8	93.7	6.3
December ..	94.8	5.2	94.0	6.0
1939 - January ..	95.2	4.8	94.6	5.4

The above table is in terms of full-time employment and unemployment. Normal seasonal variation is excluded. Allowance has been made for an estimated annual increase of 1.5% in the number of men dependent on employment. The approximate number of men in employment for the three months ended January, 1939, excluding relief workers, was 180,000.

TASMANIA: EMPLOYMENT

The following table compiled from the wages tax returns of private employers in respect of their employees, whether subject to or not subject to tax, and from returns of Commonwealth, State and Local Government employment, gives the best measure available of the course of total employment in Tasmania.

Period	Private Industry			Public Authorities			Total Employment Public and Private		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
1936-37	30,858	9,522	40,380	10,798	1,763	12,561	41,656	11,285	52,941
1937-38	34,001	10,685	44,686	10,581	1,825	12,406	44,582	12,510	57,092
1937-38 -									
December	35,029	11,068	46,097	10,775	1,831	12,606	45,804	12,899	58,703
January	34,386	11,238	45,624	10,592	1,722	12,314	44,978	12,960	57,938
February	34,238	10,971	45,209	10,538	1,775	12,313	44,776	12,746	57,522
March	36,017	11,940	47,957	10,702	1,831	12,533	46,719	13,771	60,490
April	35,619	11,255	46,874	10,546	1,841	12,387	46,165	13,096	59,261
May	34,645	10,919	45,564	10,807	1,863	12,670	45,452	12,782	58,234
June	32,967	10,675	43,642	10,651	1,866	12,517	43,618	12,541	56,159
1938-39(a)-									
July	34,465	10,806	45,271	10,591	1,873	12,464	45,056	12,679	57,735
August	34,665	10,888	45,553	10,667	1,863	12,530	45,332	12,751	58,083
September	34,663	10,981	45,644	10,593	1,875	12,468	45,256	12,856	58,112
October	35,661	10,522	46,183	10,701	1,879	12,580	46,362	12,401	58,763
November	37,366	11,131	48,497	10,561	1,879	12,440	47,927	13,010	60,937
December	38,259	11,795	50,054	10,728	1,843	12,571	48,987	13,638	62,625
January	37,426	12,143	49,569	10,230	1,787	12,017	47,656	13,930	61,586
February	38,195	12,227	50,422	10,594	1,893	12,487	48,789	14,120	62,909

(a) See Note 2 below.

NOTES

- For each month of completed financial years the figures in the table may be regarded as providing a virtually complete record of total employment. They are a combination of monthly figures received currently and annually, covering both private and public employment. They are deficient only to the inappreciable extent that some relief and other intermittent workers and domestic workers in private homes are not covered by the monthly returns. On the other hand, to the extent that they embrace the majority of workers subject to intermittent employment over the whole year, they reflect fully the seasonal and all other influences upon employment in Tasmania.
- For the months of the present financial year the figures are estimates based upon the current monthly movements of all public authority employment and of about 44 per cent. of total private employment. For a given month the figure of total private employment of the corresponding month of the previous year is changed in the ratio of the change of the current figure of private employment. The indication of the position for all employment in Tasmania given by this technical procedure must be read in the light of other indications of current change.

UNEMPLOYMENT
QUARTER ENDED MARCH, 1939

The figures relating to unemployment among members of Trade Unions are, similarly to those published in the last, derived from returns furnished by Trade Unions.

The percentages of recorded unemployment among members of reporting Trade Unions for Australia as a whole are given below for the June quarter of 1932, when unemployment was at its maximum and for each quarter from March, 1934 onwards:-

<u>AUSTRALIA</u>			
1932 - June quarter	30.0	per	cent.
1934 - March quarter	21.9	"	"
June "	20.9	"	"
September"	20.4	"	"
December "	18.8	"	"
1935 - March quarter	18.6	"	"
June "	17.8	"	"
September"	15.9	"	"
December "	13.7	"	"
1936 - March quarter	13.4	"	"
June "	12.8	"	"
September"	12.0	"	"
December "	10.7	"	"
1937 - March quarter	9.9	"	"
June "	9.7	"	"
September"	9.3	"	"
December "	8.2	"	"
1938 - March quarter	8.0	"	"
June "	8.6	"	"
September"	9.2	"	"
December "	8.9	"	"
1939 - March quarter	9.8	"	"

It should be noted that the figures refer to the mid-month of each quarter, and represent the conditions at the middle of that month. Consequently, the latest figures referred to herein relate to the middle of February, 1939.

Following the peak point (30 per cent.) in unemployment attained in the June quarter of 1932 the percentage dropped continuously to 8 per cent. in the March quarter of 1938, the lowest figure since August, 1927, when it was 6.7 per cent. In each of the next two quarters, however, the figure rose by 0.6 per cent. or 6 per 1,000 members, fell by 0.3 per cent. or 3 per 1,000 members in the December quarter, 1938, and rose again by 0.9 per cent. or 9 per 1,000 members in the March quarter, 1939.

The usual tables for Trade Union Unemployment are appended.

AUSTRALIA
Number and Membership of Trade Unions Reporting and Number
and Percentage of Unemployed - March
quarter, 1929 to March quarter, 1939

Australia	March Quarter 1929	June Quarter 1932	June Quarter 1933	March Quarter 1938	June Quarter 1938	September Quarter 1938	December Quarter 1938	March Quarter 1939
Number of Unions	375	396	394	386	386	394	395	395
Membership	420,304	413,272	415,059	462,258	463,748	468,174	471,121	475,378
Unemployed - Num- ber	39,159	123,948	106,502	36,751	39,464	42,732	41,667	46,611
Percentage	9.3	30.0	25.7	8.0	8.6	9.2	8.9	9.8

STATES

Percentage of Members of Trade Unions Reported as
Unemployed in each State March quarter, 1929 to
March quarter, 1939

State	March Quarter 1929	June Quarter 1932	June Quarter 1933	March Quarter 1938	June Quarter 1938	September Quarter 1938	December Quarter 1938	March Quarter 1939
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
New South Wales	9.7	33.2	29.6	9.6	9.8	10.0	10.1	11.0
Victoria	8.6	27.7	23.0	7.3	8.5	9.7	9.0	10.8
Queensland	7.1	19.9	15.6	6.6	7.2	6.3	5.7	6.1
South Australia	13.2	35.2	30.0	6.9	7.5	10.0	8.8	9.3
Western Australia	8.5	30.3	26.0	4.8	5.3	6.1	6.5	7.3
Tasmania (a)	10.9	27.5	18.4	5.7	7.2	8.5	10.2	7.6
TOTAL:	9.3	30.0	25.7	8.0	8.6	9.2	8.9	9.8

(a) Revised Series. These percentages, which replace those hitherto published, are based on the returns of reporting unions after excluding females from Class III (Food, drink, etc.).

The females excluded, although substantially all employed from January to March, are for the rest of the year not "unemployed" in the sense that they are seeking jobs unsuccessfully in their own industry. They are either employed in other occupations (e.g. paid domestic service) or are engaged in home duties.

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